

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

*celebrating the lives and
times of rainbow folk in
Grand River country*



The Voice

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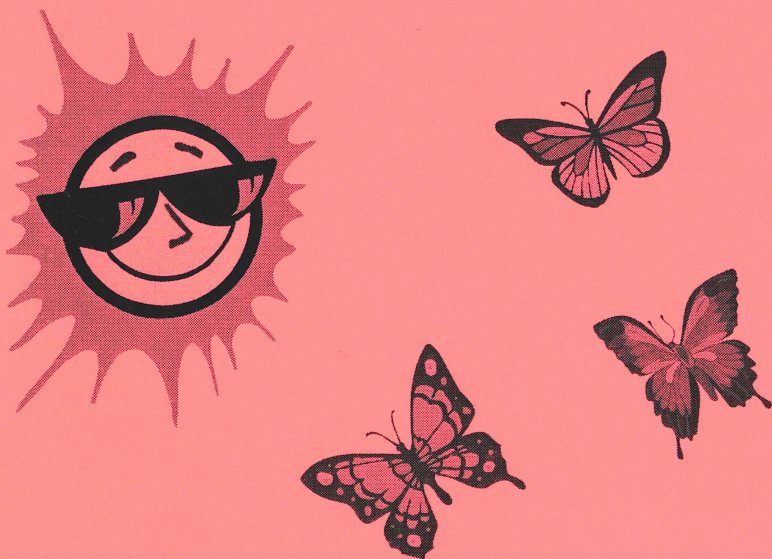
The Voice

Serving the K-W & Area Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

Volume One

Sunday, August 1, 1999.

Issue 11



See Page 35 for details on exciting Contest!!!

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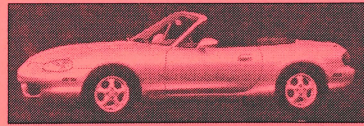
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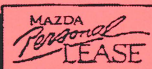
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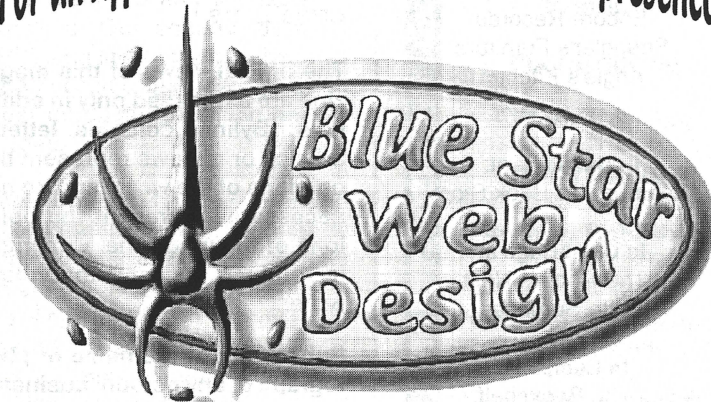
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CONTEST:Voice/MJA Productions PG 35

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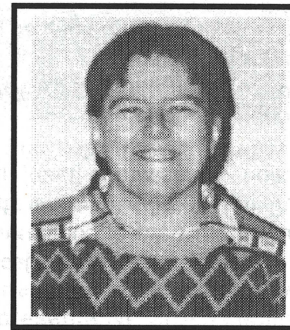
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For every action there is a reaction
it seems. Whenever we make any
headway, socially, educationally,
and especially legally with regard to
our rights there is usually a
backlash.

The United States of America has,
as we all know, even here in our
neck of the Canadian woods, the
Religious Right. There are also
many very high profile and very well-
known Christian ministers who take
the lead in speaking for "the
cause." We have all heard it!

We are perhaps too aware and
too influenced by what is said,
done, believed and valued in
America. Our society, both,
LGBT and straight is inundated
by American culture via media;
most notably television and
movies.

We lead a gentler more
compassionate style of life here.
They are the "melting pot" and
we are the "mosaic". I think
the Americans have proved
beyond a shadow of a doubt
that all cannot expect to be
molded, or melted into one
that equals anything but discord.

Here in our "mosaic" then
what's wrong you might wonder?
Don't we have it pretty good?

Sometimes we can be easily mis-
lead into thinking that things are
better here because we don't hear
the same noise or see the same
level of violence as they do in the
U.S.

Is Canadian intolerance just more
polite? Is Canadian religious bigotry
non-existent or are they just quieter
in the war that they wage?

Ever heard of the Canada Family
Action Coalition (C.F.A.C)? (See
page 49) They are not that old but
they are quickly developing an
agenda that one could argue mir-
rors our neighbours to the South.
What ever happened to the notion
that each one of us is free to live
the life that he/she chooses to live;
be that gay, straight, Christian or
non-Christian? What is the need for
all of these rigidly defined roles that
the patriarchy of religion thrusts at
us? Educated, **is**, armed right?

EDITORIAL

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PUBLIC OFFICIAL SUPPORTS
RAINBOW FLAG BURNING IN
OHIO:

On Sunday, June 27, during Columbus, Ohio's 18th annual gay pride celebration, a rainbow flag, which was flown for the first time in front of the Ohio State Capitol, was torn down from its flagpole and set afire. Two men and one woman were arrested after the incident. Following the crime, parade security and police separated parade marchers from the hecklers, most of whom came from nearby High Street Baptist Church. When the Delaware County Commission reconvened the following day, Commissioner James Ward came to the defense of the protestors who tried to intimidate and compromise the safety of parade celebrants. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has called for Ward to apologize for defending these actions, which give "tacit approval to illegal, destructive and hateful behavior which nearly incited violence," said HRC National Field Director Donna Red Wing.

<http://www.glaad.org/glaad/glaad-lines>

BRITAIN TO DUMP
SECTION 28

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government will scrap Section 28 of the Local Government Act.

The 11-year-old law prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" and bans teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.

British gay groups have battled the law since it was passed in the days of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"Section 28 was wrong [then]. It is wrong in 1999. And it will go," Cunningham said at the annual dinner of the gay lobby group Stonewall.

NEW SOUTH WALES EXTENDS
GAY RIGHTS

The Upper House of the Australian state of New South Wales passed the Property Relationships Legislation Amendment Bill May 26 granting gay/lesbian couples the same property, inheritance, alimony and medical-decision rights as heterosexual de-facto couples.

The vote was 36-3. "NSW is now at the forefront in same-sex laws in Australia by a long way," said Alan Kirkland, co-convenor of the New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.

Other areas covered by the measure include property transfer taxes, insurance contracts, trustee property, wills, probate and administration, protected estates, judges' pensions, and family provision. The bill also recognizes same-sex couples for purposes of organ donation, coroner inquests, decisions about bail for arrested persons, guardianship in regard to mental health, rights in retirement villages, and accident compensation.

<http://qrd.rdrop.com:80/qrd/world/wockner/news/briefs>

PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC GAY
RIGHTS ISSUES

THE NATIONAL ANGUS REID / SOUTHAM NEWS POLL

This National Angus Reid/Southam News Poll was conducted by telephone between May 28th and June 2nd, 1996 among a representative cross-section of 1516 Canadian adults. The actual number of completed interviews in each region was as follows: B.C. - 200; Alberta - 150; Manitoba/Saskatchewan - 120; Ontario - 526; Quebec - 400; Atlantic - 120. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 1991 Census data. With a national sample of 1516, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +2.5 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

SAME-SEX SPOUSAL BENEFITS

On the issue of same-sex spousal benefits, a majority (55%) of Canadians surveyed said they believe that "the partners of homosexual employees should be entitled to the same spousal benefits as an employer provides to the partners of heterosexual employees". Forty-one percent said such benefits should not be allowed. Support for same-sex spousal benefits appears to be far stronger in Quebec (70%) than elsewhere, especially the prairie

region where the poll found majority opposition (55% opposed in Alberta, 54% in Manitoba/Saskatchewan). Support also declines with age. Surveyed Canadians aged 18-34 supported same-sex spousal benefits by nearly three to one (71% to 26%); of those aged 35-54, a somewhat more modest majority (56%) were in favour, versus 39 percent opposed. By contrast, fully six in ten (63%) of those aged 55+ were against, outnumbering their supportive contemporaries (33%) by a margin of two to one.

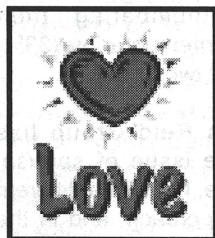
(The Angus Reid Group has examined the issue of spousal benefits before, but with a different questioning approach, and in the narrower context of the Ontario NDP government's attempt to pass legislation which would have extended gay rights on this and other fronts. In that instance, 54 percent of Canadians surveyed said they would support legislation extending same-sex spousal benefits - provided it excluded the separate provision that would have enabled same-sex couples the right to adopt children. Thus, while bearing in mind the very real differences between the 1994 and 1996 questions, the results (54% support in 1994 and 55% in 1996) suggest consistent levels of public support for same-sex spousal benefits.)

Continued on page 44

LOVE AND THE PAIN OF LOVE

By A.J. Mahari

Love is the everyday presence of honesty, hard work and genuine care and compassion in action. It is so often defined and portrayed falsely in our culture. Media and movies make love seem to be something that we are entitled to just because we are. While there is truth to this spiritually it is not the case when it comes to the connection or application of human love. Love is not the answer to any individual's neediness. Neediness must be solved by each individual for and by themselves. Love born of neediness is codependent love. Healthy love is interdependent. Love is not the solution to problems or to what you lack but rather the icing on the cake that you have taken the time to bake according to the individual recipe that defines who you are. Love is not often the fantasy of passion and chemistry, but it is the day to day, consistent and congruent care for self and others. Love is not a substitute for meeting your own needs, knowing yourself and continuing to grow and be the best you that you can be. Love is not a reason or excuse to seek to change anyone but yourself.



"People have one thing in common: they are all different. (Robert Zend) Love accepts and nurtures difference it does not seek to change it. Love is not sameness personified but rather the joining of differences in a compatible and workable way. "Prejudgments become prejudices only if they are not reversible when exposed to new knowledge." (George Bancroft) We must be able and willing to sustain our love through a lifetime of new beginnings.

The essence of life is renewal. Each of us is changing everyday, in some big or some small way. Resisting change can be very damaging to love. Lovers or friends must allow each person, each object, each day, each moment, to tell its own story. True love celebrates each new beginning as life unfolds.

No matter the course of one's life or the reality of one's background each of us brings to love our strengths and our weaknesses. Each of us learns through his/her experiences, good or bad, happy or sad, a little more about what love is and isn't as he/she relates to others in life. This often hurts. Love is a very rewarding thing. Sometimes we must endure the pain to discover things about ourselves that we, otherwise, could not have come to know, if it weren't were for loving and being loved.

The reality of love is that it is masked by many other emotions and motivations -- illusions about love are the masters of disguise. So often what we think is love, is not love. Opposingly, we often fail to recognize, love that is, because it might not meet with what we think it "should" be. Love is a journey through which one learns more about oneself as it unfolds. Do not seek to define love. Rather allow yourself to feel it. Love is a very powerful force that can give rise to peace and contentment on the one

hand, and cut like a knife on the other. We are all babes in the woods in the arena of romantic love. Be open to the journey but seek not to control its outcome. Love, like a flower, will grow in its own time, space and way. Do not take love for granted.

Love is a force that, to a degree, is beyond our will. Love is not to be controlled but rather to be freely given to self and others. Healthy love flows and is not restricted by expectation. Love is a life-long process of give and take. Love is not a destination to be arrived at. There are many different types and different degrees of love. Do not attempt to have all of your love needs met through one source of love. No matter how strong that source of love may be. As cliché as it sounds, we must first love ourselves in order to be able to accept the love of another.



The world is full of the many relational realities that do not mirror any true or healthy love. Notwithstanding that fact there is, however, an abundance of the "real thing" for those who not only seek it but for those who seek also to freely give it.

Often the real thing, "healthy love", is something that can be very difficult to define in words. "Healthy love" is stable. It is true. It sustains both joy and sorrow. It gives us both pain and pleasure in all of our days, past, present and well in to all that will be our tomorrows. Each one of us knows when love is right. And in those times we think we know and we are mistaken, sooner or later life will teach us just that. Then armed with more knowledge and experience, we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, grieve for love lost as we step onto the pathway that leads to a new love to be found and realized.

Each of us has our own experience, notion, and yes, illusion of what love is and what love looks like and feels like. We have similar illusions regarding what love is "supposed" to be. The best one can do is continue to search his/her heart and to not run or cease to care or to love someone just because it hurts. Where is it written that love "shouldn't" hurt, or that love doesn't hurt? Caring hurts. Caring and loving means that you are involved and invested and this increases your vulnerability. Vulnerability is a strength, NOT a weakness. Vulnerability is a plus not a liability. Being vulnerable in love is required in order to achieve heartfelt intimacy.

Often, that pain, the pain of love, is the most benevolent teacher that we could ever hope to have. Love's presence, and love's absence are both powerful professors giving us the gift of emotional education as we continue to mature into the loving beings that we are underneath everything else. Be always open to the gift of love. "The pain of love is the pain of being alive. It's a perpetual wound." (Maureen Duffy)

UW Project Could Help Clear the Air

By Ryan D. Kennedy

UW Student of Environmental Studies

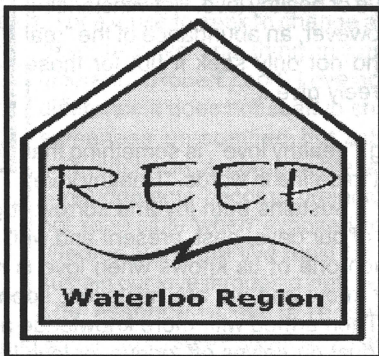
Our air quality this summer has been awful -- even worse than last summer when Kitchener-Waterloo won the distinction of having the "worst air quality in the province". Already Waterloo Region has had 7 air quality advisories and air pollution levels this summer have broken records.

The most recent event, a 3-day air quality advisory was experienced by most of southern Ontario. Health officials warned citizens to stay indoors, preferably in air-conditioned homes. The pollution coupled with the high temperatures and humidity made going outside dangerous for many. These poor air quality days are called "Spare the Air" Days by Ontario's Ministry of Environment. The Region of Waterloo calls them "Smog Alert" Days.

Originating from the words smoke and fog, smog refers to the brown haze of chemical soup that hangs over cities, usually on hot, wind-free days. There are two dangerous contaminants in smog, being ground level ozone, and small particles known as particulate matter --PM. In this part of Ontario, the primary issue is ozone.

Mike Gianfrancesco of Waterloo

Region's Community Health Department explains that in this part of Ontario, "Ground level ozone is our biggest problem." This pollutant is formed when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) react in sunlight. NOx and VOC come mostly from fueling vehicles and the tailpipes of cars and trucks, however home heating and electricity generation are also responsible for a significant percentage.



According to Ontario's Smog Plan, smog is a factor in the premature deaths of as many as 1,800 Ontarians every year.

During Waterloo Region's "Smog Alert Days",

hospital emergency rooms and doctors' offices were busy with residents complaining about difficulty breathing and pollution induced allergies.

Action is needed from all parts of society to address this problem and protect the environment and our health.

A timely project is now underway in the Region of Waterloo that will both help the quality of our air and help homeowners save money. The **Residential Energy Efficiency Project (R.E.E.P.)**, based at the University of Waterloo, is being funded largely by the federal

government's Climate Change Action Fund.

"Climate change and air quality issues are closely linked," explains Mary Jane Patterson, an Environmental Studies Student at UW who is working for R.E.E.P. this summer. "If we can reduce the amount of energy we use, we can reduce the emissions associated with the production of electricity and home heating," says Patterson. Climate change in this region is expected to enhance conditions associated with bad-air quality days such as higher temperatures.



A better insulated home with proper ventilation can help make a home more comfortable with or without air conditioning.

The energy performance of most Canadian homes can be improved by as much as 25%. This represents significant opportunity for homeowners to reduce their impacts on the environment.

R.E.E.P. will be offering evaluations to residents of Waterloo Region for the next 2 years. This unique project is currently looking for interested homeowners who can participate in the project and reap the benefits of a more comfortable home and cleaner environment.

Already, more than 100 homes have undergone home energy evaluations delivered by the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence. These nationally certified evaluations, EnerGuide for Houses, were developed by Natural Resources Canada.

Homes are not only responsible for the emissions they directly emit via their furnace or fireplace. Homes consume electricity and in Ontario a significant portion of our electricity originates from burning fossil fuels. Coal burning plants, for example, emit both smog causing agents into the air, as well as gases that contribute to climate change. Reducing a home's demand for electricity will directly reduce emissions from these generating stations.

The EnerGuide for Houses evaluation includes a "blower-door" test. Essentially, a fan is hooked up to the frame of an outside door, and blows air out of the house. The rate at which air is able to fill up the home again - through the unseen cracks and holes in the home -- indicates how drafty the house is. Some homes evaluated in Waterloo Region had holes equivalent to four square feet! Others have been too tight, which can indicate poor indoor air quality. In either case, suggestions and recommendations are made to help the homeowner improve the situation.

The EnerGuide for Houses evaluation is now being offered for \$25 during 1999. These evaluations are valued at approximately \$300, however this service is being subsidized significantly by public and private partners. The evaluation includes a nationally certified evaluator, and a summer student visiting your home. Evaluations generally take between 1 1/2 and 3 hours, depending on

Continued on page 15

Our Booties, Ourselves

by Kelli Dunham

With the proliferation of personal satellite dishes, with the right technology we can now choose from 5,432,997 different tv channels. Despite the many channels, though, I've personally only found two choices available at 2:37 am: fundamentalist preaching shows and diet industry infomercials. This is not much of a choice, since their messages are pretty much the same:

"Hello late night tv watcher...guess what? Right now, you are, frankly, a piece of crap. You are a huge steaming pile of subhuman primordial goo and you deserve only death, damnation and to wear floral polyester mu-mus for the rest of eternity. BUT swallow this pill (or this doctrine) and you'll be fulfilled, beautiful, virtuous, and blissfully happy."

Perhaps you're one of the rare individuals who are not affected by this type of ad. Perhaps you've never caught your profile in the mirror and had an ITMA (Is That My Ass???) moment; you've never

been given a diet book as gift (for your own good, of course, honey); never gone on the Last Ditch Eat a Bushel of Grapefruit a Day Diet and never slurped liquid protein shakes for six weeks at a time. You've never even thought "my life would be complete if I just lost 3/8 of an inch off my waist." If that's the case, you're damn lucky. Or you've been living beneath the polar ice cap.

As for the rest of us, it's hard not to obsess about our size, or something else that might be potentially wrong with us. There's always some advertisement that says our skin is too dark, we have lumps where we shouldn't have lumps and no lumps where there's supposed to be big ones, our hair is too frizzy, and our feet stink. As for any queer that somehow circumvents physical insecurity inspired by ad campaigns? Well, there's always Fred Phelps, Pat Robertson or other fun-loving characters to inform you that, while your skin, breath, feet and lumps might be ok, your sexual orientation is sinful and disgusting. Not to

mention weird and the cause for the imminent destruction of Western Civilization.

One might think that, sick of being judged by other people and their standards,

we as lesbians, would not judge ourselves, each other, or our own community by such arbitrary standards when it comes to size issues. Call me crazy, but I don't think we're quite there yet. The cover of last summer's issue of Lesbian Connection featured a larger size woman shown nude from the back. This caused a flurry of impassioned letters about the suitability of using larger women as models. The "anti-fat women-on-the-cover" argument was typified by an unsigned letter from a reader in New York. "Please cancel my subscription," it read "Your publication caters to the lesbian fringe." Lesbian fringe? It sounds like a 70's clothing style. Apparently this anonymous woman has forgotten that not so many years ago the term "lesbian fringe" would have been redundant because (hello!?) we were the fringe.

Hmmmm. I wonder what would happen if we were able to put aside our obsessions with how we look and every molecule of food that goes in our mouths? This could give us time to concentrate on those small details that make life better, like fighting for domestic partnership recognition, stiffer hate crime laws and protection from being fired from our jobs because of who we sleep with. Just think, we might even have time to figure out how to cheat at Gay Bingo. And "celebrating diversity" might be more than just another pretty bumper sticker.

(<http://www.whiptail.com/ftw/dunham2.html>)

This column orinally appeared in the Philadelphia publication, Au Curreant

WHAT IS FAT?

<http://www.fatso.com>

Fat is a big, fat deal for most of us. Regardless of body size, most of us have some kind of relationship with fat. But what is fat? Are you fat? What does this mean in a world that measures itself as too fat -- no matter what? Some people think fat is just a construct. If fat is a construct how can we begin to grasp the parameters of that structure? Can you describe fat? Smell it? Taste it? Feel it? Everyone has their own line, of course -- what is the line for you? Is that line different when it's not you? What about who you're with? Fat is power. Fat is lack of power. Fat is identity. If you claim fat for yourself, is it yours to claim? What is it with all these skinny girls who think they're fat? Isn't there a difference between being told you're fat by society and actually being fat? Are these women our friends and allies? Some say "How dare they call themselves fat! Doesn't that make us invisible?" But who is this "us," this "we," this "fat community" anyway? Some of us are fat, chubby, super size, skinny, thin -- it depends on whose dictionary you're reading. What does a 400-pound woman have in common with a 200-pound one? Or with a 100-pound one who thinks she's fat because she's been told it all her life? What are our differences?

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Barebacking:

By D.J.

Many of us who were not sexually active prior to the discovery of AIDS have wondered what life would be like without the condom, without the worry of your partner's health, and without the guilt of it all. It certainly seems that the numbers must be huge because many now engage in barebacking and take the risk of doing it with HIV+ individuals.

Barebacking, by definition is engaging in anal sexual activity without a condom. In barebacking parties, the attendees agree to take as many loads as are offered without any protection being offered and often times there is no knowledge as to how many of the attendees are POZ. Indeed, there is sometimes a deliberate attempt to invite several POZ guys just to see who acquires HIV and who does not. The ones who are POZ are called "gift givers" and those receiving are called "bug chasers". While this is a small minority of gay men, it ought to be a concern for the gay community.

It seems that it provides an opportunity to educate because not all the protease inhibitors and other drug cocktails which are used to control AIDS work well or for everybody and they certainly are not pleasant. My closest childhood friend whom I lost touch with for over 25 years has AIDS and when I drug cocktail and grimace at it, I realized how disciplined he must be to take something so unpalatable for the rest of his life. It was an eye-recently watched him taking his

opener for this just-coming-out man. Moreover, because of several bouts of illness, Ron is on long-term disability which means he cannot earn his living as he chose. All because of risky behaviour on the part of his long-term partner.

Recently, The Advocate did an article on barebacking which generated a great deal of angst amongst the readership. Many were wanting to put it aside and not mention the activity. That is like ignoring the fact one is homosexual. Only one person suggested that the article be used as a means of education. Others thought that the very mention of the activity tends to discredit gay men as a group. I have heard that said about Pride activities, about bathhouses and about numerous other things which gay men will engage in. We all want our community to know of the successes and not the promiscuity and risky behaviours don't we?

Not all of us carry our homosexuality on our sleeves or flaunt it but we do have a responsibility to acknowledge that there are risk behaviours that some in our community engage in and we also have a responsibility to see that those who engage in such activities know what they are doing. I believe fully in free choice so long as the individual making the choice is given all the relevant information.

DJ is a local resident of K-W and will be writing the His-story column on a regular basis.

GAY BOWLING LEAGUE

By Phil Vandermolten

Have you ever thought about joining a bowling league, and then stopped because you were unsure about how your sexual orientation would be received? Well, here is your chance to join a league in a very gay positive atmosphere!

There are currently three gay bowling leagues operating in Toronto and two leagues in London. All are members of IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization), which we would also become members. IGBO was formed in 1980 and incorporated in 1985 as a non-profit organization. They promote unity, communication and fellowship throughout the international Gay and Lesbian bowling community. They are the



world's largest single Gay sports organization, with approximately 18,000 members worldwide. IGBO offers great opportunities to meet new friends and travel. They keep us informed as to where and when

tournaments will be held worldwide and what is happening in other league's within the organization through their bi-monthly newsletter. The most important part of IGBO for me, is the atmosphere in which I can be myself and amongst other's who share the same expectations. Although IGBO is a Gay bowling organization, you need not be Gay or Lesbian to join, just have a gay positive attitude. Friends of our community are always welcome!

For more information see page 30

Jean-Paul Pilon

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THE MEETING OF POLITICS AND MENTAL HEALTH

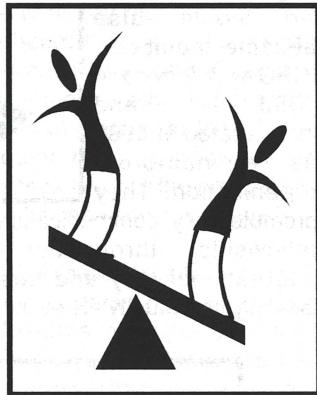
By Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

Generally, Q Health is about issues related to health and wellness in the lgbt community. There are times, however, when I will attempt to explore the "space" between emotional/mental wellness and other areas, such as spirituality, the arts, and finances, among others. In this article, I attempt to look at the mental health of politics (the politics of mental health can be left to legislators for the time being).

I have no doubt that these early experiences partly led me to changing professions to become a psychotherapist. But how do these experiences relate to your mental health? One of the most common themes I have heard from clients is isolation and of not fitting in. One sub-theme is: "I don't fit into the gay world, and I sure don't fit into the straight world." Isolation can lead to self-destructive behavior, including drinking, drugging, and it is the number one factor for having risky sex.

Developing an interest in the interests of other people can lead to wellness, which is what community-oriented action is about. To backtrack a bit, this idea was first advocated by Alfred Adler, the founder of Individual Psychology. In addition to parting company from Freud and Jung by saying that we are responsible for our actions, he also said that if people were to get outside of themselves to help others, their mental health would improve. He also noticed that people start out with natural feelings of inferiority, and that often these feelings can turn into an inferiority complex (he coined the term) or, if they start to become overwhelming, the feelings can turn into feelings of superiority or specialness. People can then become discouraged and give up on developing relationships, a good career, and good friends, or they can put other people down, think that rules don't apply to them, or believe they are entitled to special privilege.

Most people don't go too far in either direction, but who doesn't feel that they would have difficulty walking up to a person they have a crush on and ask him or her out? And who doesn't feel entitled at times, not wanting to wait in line? In other words, we generally fall somewhere in the middle, with most of us either aware of feelings of inferiority, or we make up for them by putting on a superior act.



By becoming socially or politically active, however, you can begin to take a horizontal view of humanity by understanding that there is no one with more or less worth than you. And by gaining an interest in other people, you may begin to feel more worthwhile, as well as focusing on your commonality with others rather than emphasizing your differences. Becoming socially or politically involved is also an indication of greater well-being. It is a way of saying, "I feel deeply or passionately enough about other people and myself to do something about this feeling."

In the lgbt community, there has been exponential growth in social, political, and spiritual groups. Even small communities have organizations for lgbt individuals to turn to. This growth may mean that the lgbt community is getting healthier, or it may mean that since lgbt individuals are out in such large numbers, the opportunity to openly help out other lgbt individuals is possible.

Either way, the amount of caring and concern within the lgbt communities continues to grow, and organizations from sports groups to non-profits to every thinkable self-help, spiritual, and political organization is available. For those of you who claim you don't fit in, there are no more excuses -- there is a place for you. All you need to do is find your areas of interest. And if an organization of interest isn't available in your area, think about starting one. Ironically, you can overcome all sorts of personal problems by becoming more concerned with others.

Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is an author and psychotherapist in Carmel, California. He can be reached at [REDACTED]

Residential Energy Efficiency Project

Continued from page 9

report is produced at the end of the visit, which describes where improvements could be made.

There are many things we can do to help improve our air quality. Contacting the R.E.E.P. office is one simple act that can have a real impact on our community. Call the University of Waterloo 888-4567 ext. 6661 (ask for Mary Jane or Raj). Or email REEP@fes.uwaterloo.ca.

Taking the bus, car-pooling, walking, and biking will all help the air and our health, and help reduce climate change. On "Smog Alert" days, residents should try to avoid using gas-powered lawn mowers or leaf blowers. Even refueling a vehicle after daylight hours will help.

For more information about smog, try Environment Canada's web site : <http://www.ec.gc.ca/smog/alert.htm#AQI> For more information about the health affects of smog or Waterloo Region's Clean Air Plan, call Mike Gianfrancesco at the Community Health Department (883-2000).

This article was submitted to The Voice by Ryan Kennedy who is a grad student in local economic development at the University of Waterloo.

The pain of love is a soul learning to be more fully whole. The pain of love is each of us trying to understand a little more, trust a little more, and open up just a little more. The pain of love is our life-long struggle here to surrender control that is not ours and never will be ours. Each of us meets with the pain of love in and through both a need for love and our inherent vulnerability in its attainment. Love is a perpetual wound. It is often through what wounds us that we are also taught to better define, know and understand ourselves. Life, like love, is also a perpetual wound. No one gets to live a life unscarred in the course of living. Love cannot be

sought, fallen short of and found without one being scarred to one degree or another. It is the nature of the beast. Love like its opposite, hate, is one of the most powerful emotions that exists within the realm of human emotion.

It is only through our perceived weaknesses that we truly can attain, maintain and continue to further gain strength. Strength does not beget strength. Weakness weaves its wonder. Strength is woven from the cloth of our weakness. Love is a testament to this. The pain endured within the arena of love puts us in touch with

Next Page ----->



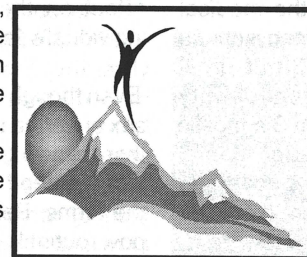
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our weaknesses and gives us the chance to learn to give yet more to ourselves and to others. "If you think you have given enough, think again. There is always more to give and someone to give it to." (Norman Vincent Peal)

If you are experiencing the pain of love, appreciate it and do not turn away from love that seeks to teach you to be a deeper, more vulnerable and profoundly precious you.

"Adversity not only draws people together, but brings forth that beautiful inward friendship, just as the cold winter forms ice figures on a window panes, which the warmth of the sun effaces." (Soren Kierkegaard) Love is the master of feelings that are adverse in the very nature of their being. We all have in common this adversity. The pain

of past, or lost love, can be effaced by the warmth of the sun risen again in the form of new love. New love can only be experienced if one stays open to its possibility.



Separateness is an illusion within the human condition. Everything in the universe, certainly within our world, is interconnected. There is no longer a place to hide from each other. There is no wall high enough or strong enough to separate us from one another's loneliness or despair. We all will know and experience loneliness and despair because we live in a broken human condition which is absent of any perfection, Love is the most effective connection to all things. Love has the power to heal,

enlighten, unite, enrich, and restore. In order to experience these gifts housed within the power of love we must know two things: firstly, that love and pain are not opposites and secondly, that all we need to do to cut through the illusion of separateness, while being fully authentically who we are, is be open to love.

Love is life fulfilled. The pain of love is the highway to the heart where that fulfillment can be realized. All roads lead to where you stand. You are standing at the heart of all that matters to you and for you in your life. Be open to both the wounds and the wonders of love.

"Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead." (Oscar Wilde)

The promise of love and the sharing of love are sources of eternal hope in life. Life presents us with much change, stress, and loss. The support and the connectedness of love offer us

important ports in the storms of life.

"It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. A sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all." (Emmet Fox)

The opinions expressed in this column are those of A.J. Mahari only, and are not made from any editorial standpoint of The Voice Magazine.

Implications of Being Gender Dysphoric

Most people never question the accuracy of the sex they were born into, while there are those who can't imagine a more important question. Some of this latter group don't raise the question until midlife, but most often those who feel they have been born the wrong sex are aware that there is something wrong as early as age four. Because of the importance sexual -- and by linguistic default, gender -- classification plays in a child's life, the notion of there being something wrong usually results in a feeling of being different from their peers and uncertain about their identity. Clearly a very shaky start for anyone's life.

For most, this feeling of being the wrong sex, known in the medical literature as either gender dysphoria or transsexualism (and now technically as Gender Identity Disorder (302.5), per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV), comes and goes over the course of their lives. It can be gone for a few hours, a few days, or as long as a few months, but significantly, it always returns. It pervades all aspects of life.

People who can't express or are fearful of expressing their inner sense of maleness or femaleness develop an anxiety that builds over time, often leading to deep despair and chronic depression. Many think of suicide and attempts are common. Untreated, most live seriously disrupted lives. The situation is made even more difficult because the condition, contrary to popular belief, is not necessarily

apparent in one's behavior and generally is not recognized by society as a valid disorder. Furthermore, since everyone is raised as either a boy or a girl, without the individual doing a thing, a chain of physiological and societal events unfolds that entrench the individual into a predetermined set of behaviors and expectations. To insist on deviating from those expectations invariably results in social conflict. The quality of life of the individual, as well as his or her relationship to family, friends, career, legal status and the nature of his or her being in the universe, are all at stake. There may be no other psycho-physiological condition short of a severe mental disorder that has as far reaching an effect on the individual and the individual's family.

Even though the terms gender and sex are often used interchangeably there is now good reason to believe that we need be clearer on use of the terms. Behavior scientists are now routinely using the word sex to refer to the shape of the genitalia, while gender is a measure of the individual's imprint of being male, female, or somewhere in between. John Money calls this imprinting our gendermap. Money defines a gendermap as the entity, template, or schema within the mind and brain unity that codes masculinity and femininity and androgyny. The map is established very early in life through an interaction of nature and nurture.

If we accept the notion that gender is a continuum running from

absolute male on one end to absolute female on the other, and that genital sexual physiology may not necessarily be congruent with gender identity, we can see the possibility of there being a corresponding mild-to-severe range in gender related anxiety.

Individuals who are generally satisfied with their assigned sex but experience a mild anxiety regarding their gender identity take two different views. The periodic need to cross-dress is a common element in both cases. Some individuals have come to terms with their cross-dressing needs and may even celebrate them with public presentations. Others have a far more negative view of their activities and keep their cross-dressing a private matter. Either way these individuals stay largely within the primary physical bounds of their assigned sex. The problems these people encounter are primarily social ones: family pressures to conform, and the potential embarrassment of discovery being the most important. As with more extreme cases, minimal to mild gender identity anxiety is known to affect individuals throughout their lives.

Males report making repeated efforts to purge themselves of accumulated female clothing only to reassemble yet another secret wardrobe. Involvement in stereotypical male activities increases, such as joining special hypermale divisions of the military or motorcycle clubs with outlaw reputations. Another common attempt is to get married and have children. To enhance this effort, many of these individuals

paradoxically adopt homophobic, transphobic, and overtly sexist attitudes. This latter attitude is adopted in the hope that increasing a sexist, pro-male identity will override their desires to be female.

In distinct contrast, gender dysphoric females make very little attempt to rid themselves of their desire to be male. In fact, they continue uninterrupted by puberty in effecting an androgynous appearance and evoking androgynous-to-outright male mannerisms. In larger cities, refuge is often found by taking active roles in the lesbian community and involvement in typically male occupations. Homophobic and transphobic reactions are also not present.

Anne Vitale Ph.D.

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Competitive Marketing Advantages Through Strategic Web Placement

By David Radin

Host, Internet Insider Radio

Traditional marketing wisdom states that you compete in four areas, known commonly as the four P's--Product, Price, Promo and Place. For most companies that use eBusiness as an incremental marketing method for their traditional products, product line doesn't change much from the traditional world to the Internet. Nor does price, although efficiencies of the electronic medium may give additional pricing flexibility that can be passed to the customer.

Over the past few years, most of the emphasis in eBusiness has been the use of the World Wide Web for promotion--putting up your Web site and perhaps promoting it using banner ads. Companies who are growing their eBusinesses have placed very little emphasis on the fourth P--"Place," marketing slang for distribution. Yet, the advantages of the Internet as a distribution mechanism are solid, and can often produce great competitive advantages when used properly.

A logical paradigm is the traditional environment--let's call it dry land (as opposed to the ether of an Internet cloud). You've spent millions of dollars developing distribution mechanisms that put you and your products right next to your

customers. Whether you've built hundreds of retail stores, relationships with thousands of "local agents," or merely several bulk distribution facilities, you've recognized that the closer you are to your customer, the more you can truly target their needs. That translates to your customers feeling closer to you, and having a higher propensity to do business with you. The example that I've used for several years has been that of Radio Shack. This retailer has thousands of stores in malls and strips around the world because their customers shop locally for convenience.

eBusiness News



Of course on the World Wide Web, much of the convenience factor is missing because it may be just as easy while sitting in front of a

computer screen to go to www.company1.com as it is to go to www.company2.com. So it would seem that any company setting up shop on the Web would have just as big an advantage as any other company. Yet, if you believe traditional marketing wisdom, distribution is extremely important. So you need to play out the distribution battle in a different way.

Amazon.com took a unique approach to the distribution battle. Out-distributed on dry land by the

large booksellers, the company figured out how to increase distribution on the World Wide Web to make up for its disadvantage in bricks and mortar. It offered other Web site owners the ability to open their own online bookstores through what the company calls its Associates Program. The basic idea is that other Web site operators could display a selection of books on their Web sites by using the book catalog at Amazon.com. When a customer wants to purchase a book, they can start the purchase process at the associate's Web site and complete the purchase using Amazon.com shopping baskets. The associate gets a commission. Amazon gets a new customer with additional purchase potential. And the entire transaction is performed in a secure manner using technology supplied through Amazon. A win-win-win situation.

If that was the end of the story, Amazon.com would indeed be destined to be a big winner. But this is the competitive marketplace, and the big booksellers took notice. Barnes & Noble subsequently opened its own Web site and used similar tactics to increase distribution around the World Wide Web. Barnes & Noble even took the tactic a step further by creating an alliance with Lycos, one of the leading search engine companies, to place a series of special links on the Lycos home page. Now when a potential customer uses Lycos to search for information, he sees a link that prompts him to search for books on the same subject--through the Barnes & Noble catalog.

The Web distribution war for booksellers was on. Amazon.com signed up America Online and other large user aggregation sites; and now both companies have aggressive Web distribution programs aimed at creating large and small book outlets around the Web, co-branded with the originating Web site, and targeted at the specific audience that typically visits each Web site.

The net result of the bookseller situation is that potential book buyers are now much closer to the books they really want, making it easier for them to buy and more likely for them to buy often.

A similar methodology can be extended into other market spaces, allowing companies to gain eBusiness competitive advantages through distribution differentials.

Ecommerce is still commerce. It depends upon supply and demand.

Most of ecommerce will be created and exploited by nonrevolutionary thinkers who understand demand.

The point of ecommerce is to provide a useful service while keeping yourself amused.

Ecommerce has opened the floodgates for investment opportunities.

Ecommerce has proven to be a very profitable vehicle in the business world. There is money to be made.

One stumbling block to ecommerce --digital signatures-- is slowly being hammered out. Problem is, everyone has a different solution.

When a shopper writes a cheque, the clerk usually asks for a picture ID to confirm the shopper's identity.

policy and legal snags in the United States and abroad--as states and countries dream up various protocols for employing the technology.

As more countries make their own rules about digital authenticity,

A digital signature, just like a real one, is intended to verify the identity of the sender. Instead of a pen, digital signature employs a unique sequence of data bits to ensure the sender's identity or the document's contents.

Online, a person's word is often the best that you can get. Digital signatures are one technology that could fix this, however, by giving Internet users a way to prove their identity when they send correspondence, buy a product, or approve a contract.

You'd think that with the explosion of ecommerce, which is projected to hit \$300 billion worldwide by 2001, according to Forrester Research, digital signatures would be widely used. But the technology is being held up from widespread implementation, mostly due to

consumers and ebusineses will have to navigate myriad laws while their documents move over global networks.

What remains to be seen are internationally agreed upon regulations. Following which then a determination has to be made as to the level of liability on the part of digital signature providers to protect against economic loss.

A.J. Mahari (with excerpts from an article that appeared in the magazine Business 2.0)

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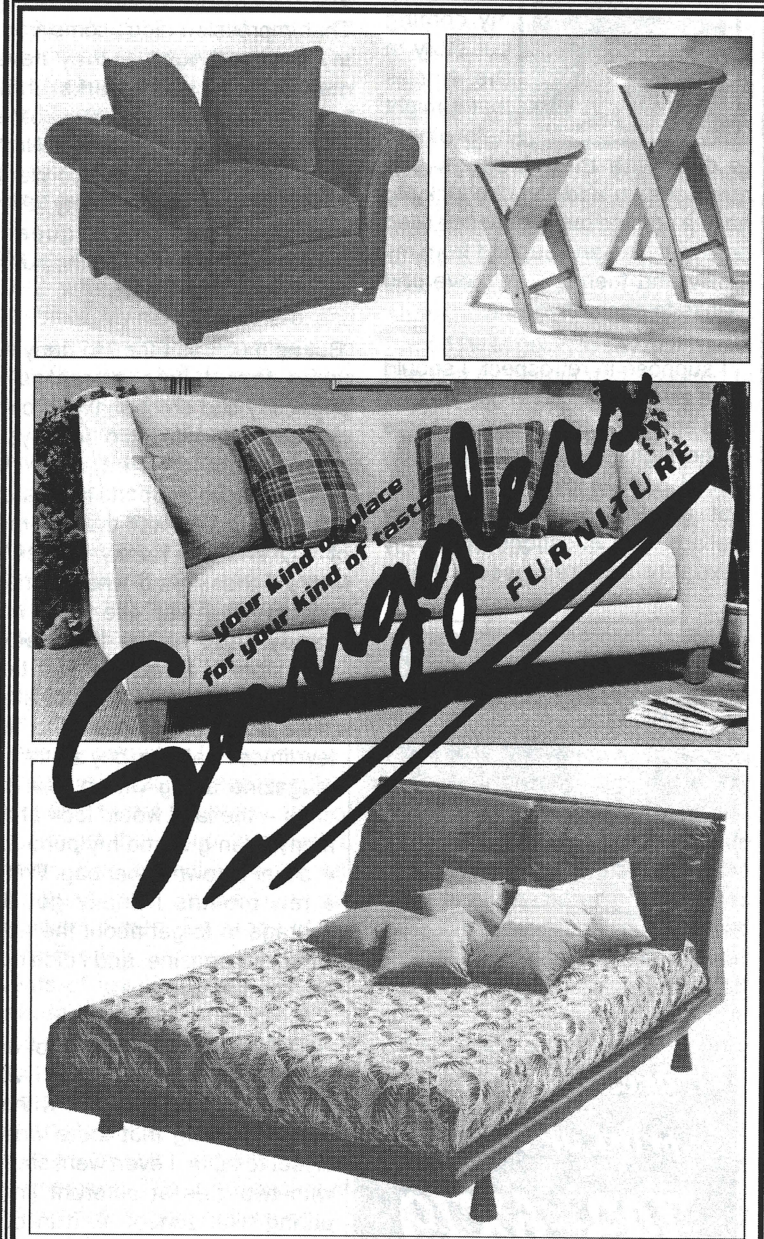
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Jase's Coming Out Story



I'm sharing my coming out story in the hopes that it might help others to deal with their feelings and questions. In addition, I'm lucky to have a coming out experience filled only with love and support from my family and friends -- my love and thanks to each of you.

I suppose in retrospect, I should have always known I'm gay. If I look hard enough, I can recognize some of the signs in highschool, grade school, or even my early childhood. But regardless, I denied any feelings and questions about my sexuality and repressed them,

because I had the impression that those kinds of thoughts were wrong. That impression didn't come from my family, though -- they never made any direct remarks about homosexuality one way or the other. But as a boy growing up in North Dakota, there were always plenty of subtle cues that society didn't care much for queers. Homosexuals were often the butt of many adolescent jokes.

But as much as I tried to deny it, I knew that I was attracted -- physically and emotionally -- to my own sex. So while the other guys in high school drooled over the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated, I checked out the well-dressed men of GQ and the hunky bodies in Men's Fitness. And when I finally turned 18, I was like a kid in a candy shop at the local adult bookstore -- it was the first time I'd ever seen a Play Girl or other male porn magazines. The first few times I'd always buy a 'straight' magazine along with a few gay ones -- the lady would look at me funny, then give me my purchase in a plain brown paper bag. Within a few months I finally got the courage to forget about the extra straight magazine, and I didn't get any more funny looks.

But throughout high school and my first year of college, I was completely in the closet without even admitting that there was a closet to be in. I even went steady with two girls at different times during high school. And in both cases, as the girl started getting more serious about me, something clicked and I had to get out of the

relationship. I knew I didn't want to be physical with the opposite sex. My hormones told me I wanted to be physical with the same sex, and I even had a friend who I'd experiment with now and then. But after fooling around, I'd always feel terribly ashamed and empty. I always promised myself to never do it again, but my hormones never cared much about those promises.

My whole life changed in the fall of 1992 when I finally moved to California. My mom lived there, and I'd been wanting to move to California even before high school graduation. But after graduation I'd enrolled in nearby Moorhead State University because they offered me a full scholarship, and it was hard to justify turning it down. After my Freshman year, however, the scholarship was over and my mom invited me to come live with her. It was my dream come true!

Even after I moved to California, I was still confused and in denial about my sexuality. I saw how gay people are ostracized and ridiculed, and I didn't want to be gay. Part of me thought that if I could be with a woman, then everything would fall into place and I'd be over my attraction to men. So in one of the more foolish and irresponsible events of my life, I flew to South Dakota to meet a girl that I'd become close friends with through an online chat forum. To make a long story short, we did end up sleeping together, and I realized that I simply wasn't meant to be heterosexual. The emotional love and physical excitement just wasn't there. The experience certainly made everything fall into place, but just not like I had thought it would.

So, I finally knew that I'm gay. On February 23, 1993, I came out to myself. (I remember the date because it happened to be, strangely enough, my father's birthday!) I also came out to my mom that day, whom I was still living with at the time. I was so nervous, but I knew it was something I had to do. I was shaking, but somehow after plenty of stumbling and stuttering I said the 'G' word. And to my surprise -- and delight -- my mom let out a deep breath and said something like "Is that all?" -- she feared I was going to say that I didn't like it in California and I wanted to move back to North Dakota. She hugged me and told me it didn't matter if I'm gay. As it turns out, I later found out that my mom's best friend from high school is gay, too. So it certainly wasn't an issue with her.

The next task was to tell my family and friends back in North Dakota. After such a positive experience from my mom, I couldn't wait to tell everyone. My younger sister was surprised, but still supportive. My dad admitted that he wasn't too happy about the news, but he made it a point to tell me he still loved me just the same. Some of my friends were shocked; some said they had guessed it already. All in all, it was a pretty good coming out -- whether they were surprised or not, everyone was supportive and positive.

By now, it's simply a matter of fact to my family and friends that I'm gay.

Still, coming out is a continual process. Just by wearing gold bands on our ring fingers, Michael

Continued on page 26

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SO YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT COMING OUT...

If you are a gay, lesbian or bisexual teen, remember, school is a dangerous place to 'come out' or to be 'outed'. Schools can be threatening places, yet each act of self-acceptance and confidence means a step forward to a whole and healthy life and, ultimately, a safer school. There are some DO's and DON'T's you need to remember at school and anywhere you may not feel safe. You can't do it all alone. You need the support and help of your friends, your family, and your teachers.

Coming Out Is a Process: Sexuality begins with our feelings.

Hey, I'm Ok, I'm Me: Our reaction in schools must be "hate homophobia. Hate hate, not us, not our gay, lesbian or bisexual lives.

Who To Talk To: Confidentiality is a big issue. If you decide to talk to a teacher or a guidance counsellor ask first if they will keep what you say confidential or if they would talk to your parents.

Talk, Make Contact: Speaking to someone about your emerging sexual identity is critical. Be selective in looking for a trustworthy person with whom you feel safe.

Be Informed: You need to educate yourself with particular emphasis on affirming lgb information.

Excerpted from "The Moment"
Number 26 --1995

Jase's Coming Out

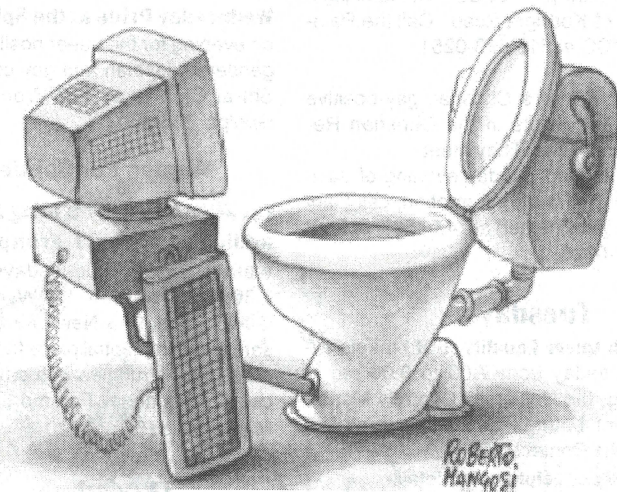
Continued from page 25

and I are making a decision to be visibly out. If somebody asks me about it, I'll tell them the truth -- that I have a husband, not a wife. And when I was recently interviewing for my post-graduation employment, I had to decide whether or not I would be visibly out by including in my web portfolio the sites I've done that have gay content. I knew that I'd be hired based on my talents. Fortunately, I have that prerogative in the computer industry of Silicon Valley -- I realize that people in other fields and other locales may not have that option to be out. But that's just all the more reason for me to be!

Janelle T. Wielhouwer, M.S.W.
Psychotherapy

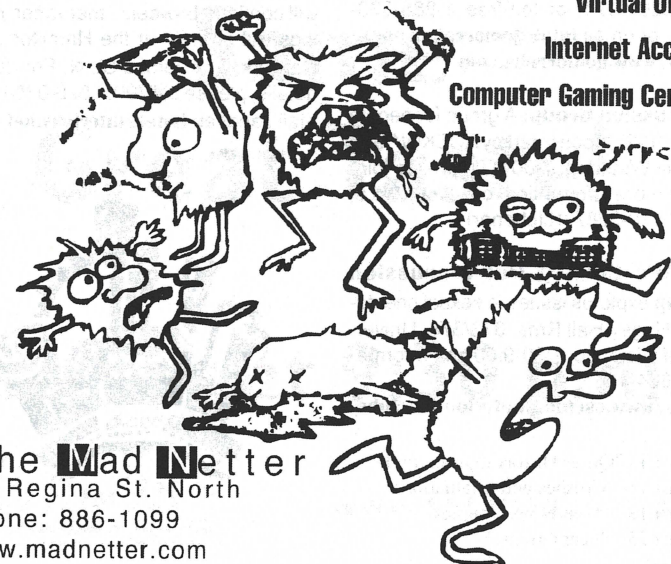


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Sundays

The Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church: An LGBT-friendly Community Church. Services take place each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican, 171 Kortright Road. Call the Rainbow MCC at 519-823-0251

AWARE K-W is a Christian gay-positive group with roots in the Christian Reformed Church. They meet every second Sunday evening of each month. For more information, call Gary [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], or Fred at [REDACTED]

Tuesdays

Guelph Queer Equality (GQE) meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in UC536, the University Centre's Mature Student Lounge at the University of Guelph. Contact GQE at:

gqe@uoguelph.ca for details.

Wednesdays

Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group We meet every first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm. Call us for more details: 905-526-1074, or toll-free 1-888-338-8278, or email info@gomorrah.com
<http://www.gomorrah.com>

Discussion Group: A group for people aged 16-25, sponsored by ACCKWA and held in Waterloo, 7:00-9:00 pm. To join, or for more information, call **ACCKWA** at (519) 570-3687 (Kitchener).

GLOW's Coming Out Discussion Group explores issues in sexual orientation; Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Information: 884-4569.

<http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/glow>

August 4 - "Queer History / Queer Pride"

August 11 - "Crushes and Infatuations"

August 18 - "Same-Sex Couples"

August 25 - "Peer Groups"

Glow's Second Discussion Group's Topics for August are TBA.

GLOW Social: a social evening in Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 9:00-11:00 pm.

Wednesday Pride at the Spiral Club, an evening for the queer positive, transgendered, lesbian and gay community. Spiral Club is at 122 Woolwich St., Guelph, 836-4802.

Women For Sobriety

Create a New Life: a drug & alcohol addiction support group for gay women meets Wednesdays, 7pm to 8:30pm, Oasis Club, 146 Wyndham St., Guelph. Create a New Life provides a safe and confidential place for women to share their struggles with drugs and alcohol addictions. For more info, call Marilyn at (519) [REDACTED]

Thursdays

Hamilton Transsexual Peer Support Group: If you are post-op or pre-op transsexual or are dealing with gender dysphoria, come join this bi-weekly peer support group. Meetings begin February 4, 1999 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and will continue bi-weekly thereafter. Meetings will be held at the Hamilton AIDS Network, 512 James St. N. For further details, please call (905) [REDACTED], or e-mail Janet at: [REDACTED]



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Monday August 2

The Priscilla Queen of the North Tour is ready to tour Ontario! We'll be going for a week and visit the Souix, North Bay, Saulte Ste. Marie, Souix Look Out, Cornwall, and Ottawa from August 2nd-9th. We still have a few openings for this trip! If you are interested in travelling with LGBTOUT contact our tour coordinator, Julia, at 416-██████████

To get involved contact LGBTOUT (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered of the University of Toronto), 73 St. George Street, Rm. 133, Toronto, Ont., M5S 2E5, 416-935-0272.

Saturday August 7

Gayfest '99 (Formerly called "GayDay at Canada's Wonderland") Ontario AIDS Network is now hosting this event at Paramount Canada's Wonderland on August 7th, 10 am to 11 pm. This charity fundraiser is also supporting the Windsor AIDS Committee and Tickets will be \$32. You may get more info from Ontario AIDS Network at 416-364-4555, or web page: www.travelgay.com or email: ██████████

Thursday August 12

LGBTOUT Queer Activist Conference at 5 pm at the SAC offices at 12 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto. We are interested in organizing a conference relating to Queer Student Issues. Contact info to equity@sac.utoronto.ca (Rick) and ██████████ (Bonte).

Saturday August 14

Leather Ball 5 at The Waterhouse, 10pm - 6am, at The Government Complex, 132 Queens Quay E, Toronto. Leather/Denim dress code in effect. Free shuttle bus: pick up at corner of Church & Maitland. Special feature performers: Jared Wright & Corey Jay (stars of Falcon Video's Link To Link). Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Ticket outlets: Priape Toronto, **Website: www.leatherball.com**

30

Tuesday August 17

Pre-Walk Registration Launch & BBQ at Victoria Park, Kitchener starting at 2 pm. This is to facilitate the registration and pledge forms processing for AIDS Walk Day on September 26, as well as to socialize with a BBQ, music and entertainment. Hosted by ACCKWA: The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area, 85 Frederick St., Kitchener N2H 2L5. Phone: (519) 570-3687. Toll-Free: (888) 689-2178. Fax: (519) 570-4034.

Friday August 20

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meet at 8:00 pm. PFLAG is a support group for people who are learning to understand and come to terms with the sexual orientation of family members or friends in a confidential and supportive atmosphere. For the location of the meeting and more information, call Evie at ██████████ (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) ██████████ (Cambridge) or email them at pflag@rainbow.on.ca

Sunday August 22

GAY BOWLING

Free Bowling Party at 3:30 pm at the Brunswick Frederick Plaza Lanes, 385 Frederick Street, Kitchener (behind Frederick Mall Plaza). This event includes 3 games of TEN PIN BOWLING, shoe rental and munchies. ALL FREE!! (Drinks are not included.) We are trying to start a gay ten-pin bowling league. This winter league would run from September 12 until approximately April. Bowling will take place on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm. We would eventually, depending on interest, become members of IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization). No tickets are required, just show up ready to play! Contacts: Phil Vandermolten at ██████████ Brunswick Bowl; Darlene Uhrig ██████████

(more info re league on page 13)

ACCKWA (The Aids Committee of Cambridge, K-W and Area) 85 Frederick St. E., Kitchener, Ont., (519) 570-3687

ACGWC (Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County) 204-85 Norfolk Street, Guelph Ont., (519) 763-2255

AIDS Hotline: Ontario Ministry of Health
1-800-668-2437

Anselma House: A crisis shelter for abused women with or without children. 24 hour crisis line: (519) 742-5894

Brethren Mennonite Council For Gays and Lesbians, P.O. Box 43031, Eastwood Square, Kitchener, Ont, N2H 6S9

COLLAGE: (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) Provides education, support and community on local and international levels. 415-861-KIDS or contact Sarah at ██████████

K-W Distress Line- (519) ██████████

Global: is available to help anyone in the Laurier community who is dealing with LGBT issues. Staff, students, or faculty can reach GLOBAL directly at the club's e-mail address 00global@mach1.wlu.ca Laurier Peer Help Line 884-PEER.

GLOW Phone Line: 884-GLOW. Information and peer support.

HOWL: Hanging Out With Lesbians is a social group for women (lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay friendly) ages 25 and up who are active in Guelph and area. Women may contact HOWL through Outline (519) 836-4550

KW Frontrunners: Contact Mark at ██████████ or Peter at ██████████

KW Aquatics: Contact Mark at ██████████

Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual Youth Line:
1-800-268-YOUTH

Outline: A support and resource phone line for people dealing with LGBT issues at the University of Guelph. **Phone lines are closed Wednesdays and Saturdays (for the summer)** Open 7 to 10 pm other evenings. Call (519) 836-4550. outline@uoguelph.ca
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~outline>

Rainbow Chorus: is a choir that performs and will also be **hosting dances for the LGBT community every month through to July and then starting again in September.** For information you can contact Robert at ██████████ or Cory at ██████████
<http://www.webpoint.net/~cory>

Sexual Assault Centers:
KW.....(519)741-8633
Cambridge.....(519)658-0551
Guelph.....(519)823-5806
Hamilton.....(905)525-4162

Two Spirited People of First Nations:
Toronto-416-944-9300

Waterloo Region Alliance For Equal Rights-Kitchener-(519) 743-5832

Women's Centers: UofW (519) 888-4567 ext. 3457

WOODS: Women Out Opening Doors Socially is a social club for lesbians and lesbian-positive women in K-W and area. In Kitchener contact Dona at ██████████ and in Guelph the contact person is Debbie at ██████████

Special thanks to David Welbourn for his compilton of community events at The Rainbow Community Center <http://www.rainbow.on.ca>

If you have a group or an organization that you would like listed here please call, write, or email us at the voice.

(contact addresses are on page 2)

31

ONE LINERS

If money could talk, it would say good-bye.

"Person who keep feet firmly on ground have trouble putting on pants!"

Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.

Unless you're the lead dog, the scenery never changes.

Gone crazy; be back shortly

Who Took The Fun Out Of Fundamentalists?

Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.

How did people describe a tornado before freight trains were invented?

In my lifetime, I've learned two great truths. Sometimes love just isn't enough, and sometimes shipping and handling is too much.

NY Democrats are handing out bumper stickers saying "Run, Hillary, Run!" NY Republicans are putting them on their FRONT bumpers.

Crime wouldn't pay if the government ran it.

Nonconformists are all alike.

Every time I find the meaning of life, they change it.

Every Titanic has its iceberg.

"Sex on beach is like American beer - very near water."

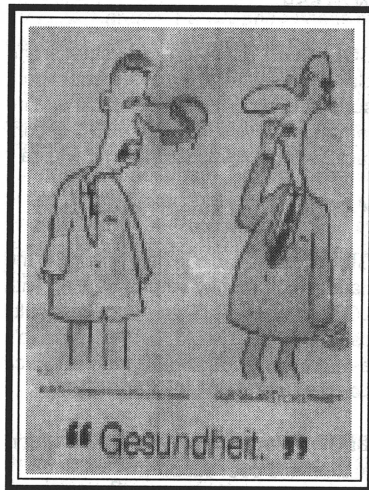
In years gone by people actually believed that foolish spending stopped when one ran out of money.

The reason we can't take it with us is because it goes before we do.

Some tortures are physical and some are mental, but the one that's both is dental.

The older I get, the better I was.

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools



MERGERS

Playboy & Toys R Us = **Boy Toy**
 Crabtree & Evelyn and Apple computer = **Crab Apple**
 Fairchild & Honeywell = **Farewell, Honeychild**
 Folger Coffee & Detroit Edison & Rolex = **Folderal**
 Swissair & Cheseborough-Ponds = **Swisschese**
 3M & JC Penny & Canadian Opera Company = **3 Penny Opera**
 Mattel & Pacific Gold = **Ma & Pa**
 Sears Roebuck & Rogers Cable = **Buck Rogers**

Nothing like a day at the beach to bring you back to life!



WHO SAID SUN WAS FUN?



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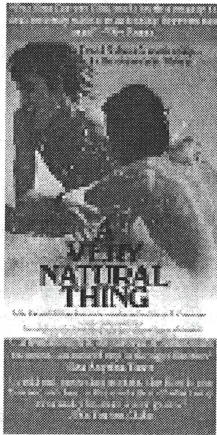
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

The Arts and Crafts Movement in American decorative arts took place between 1895 and 1920. Leading proponents of the movement were Elbert Hubbard and his Roycrofters, the brothers Stickley, Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles and Henry Greene, George Niedecken and Lucia and Arthur Matthews.

The movement was marked by individualistic design (although the movement was national in scope) and re-emphasis on handcraftsmanship and appearance. A reform of industrial society was part of the long range goal. Most pieces of furniture favoured a rectilinear approach and were made of oak.

A Very Natural Thing



(1973, 85 min, US)
 Director: Christopher Larkin
 Starring: Robert Joel, Curt Gareth
 Label: Water Bearer

Quite an important film in the history of American gay film-making, this simple but insightful drama is considered the first feature film on the gay experience made by an open gay to achieve commercial distribution. The story involves a 26-year-old gay man who leaves the priesthood and moves to New York City in the hopes of finding a meaningful gay relationship. Now a schoolteacher, he soon falls in love with a handsome young advertising executive. It is sensitively told and refreshingly romantic.

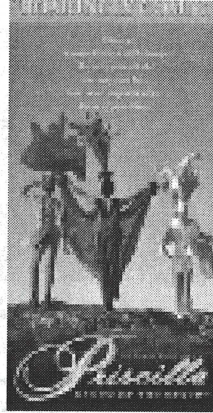
Celestial Clockwork



(1994, 86 min, France/Venezuela)
 Director: Fina Torres
 Starring: Ariadna Gil, Arielle Dombasle, Evelyne Didi

Exuberant, fanciful and infused with magical realism this comedy is a delightful celebration of the pursuit of individual happiness and sexual open-mindedness. In dusty Caracas, the lovely Ana suddenly comes to her senses on the altar and flees, leaving her stunned husband-to-be and her former life behind. She jumps aboard the next Paris-bound plane and takes up residence in a funky crash pad with her old friend Alma. Ana discovers her budding lesbiansim, falling desperately in love with an attractive high-tecpsychoanalyst

Priscilla Queen of The Desert



(1994, 102 min, Australia)
 Director: Stephan Elliott
 Starring: Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce, Bill Hunter, Sarah Chadwick
 Label: Polygram

1960s international sex symbol Terence Stamp is a transgendered marvel as the mature, demure but tough transsexual Bernadette who teams up with two transvestites on a cross-country trip through Australia's Outback in this musical comedy. Bernadette leaves the safe confines of Sydney touring in a bus (named Priscilla).

There are moments of seriousness when homophobia, potentially violent culture clashes and regret of roads not taken confront them.

Pride Album

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 FOURTH PRIZE - Heather Bishop's CD "Dream Me Home" FIFTH & SIXTH PRIZE - Pair of Princess Cinema Tickets!
 SEVENTH PRIZE - your very own Voice Magazine baseball cap!!

Clip and mail entry to The Voice Magazine: address on Page Two.

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Draw will be held LIVE on the LEAPING LESBIANS Radio Show, Thurs. Sept 23/99!

Dawson's Dyke

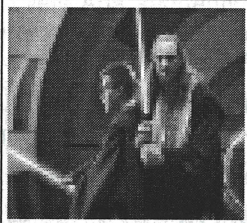
Michelle Williams, resident "bad girl" of Dawson's Creek, has been spending her summer vacation broadening her sexual horizons. For the first part of her hiatus, Williams disrobed in the off-Broadway play Killer Joe, in which she played a white-trash seductress. The show got slammed by the critics, but Williams's physique was highly lauded. Next up, she'll play a lesbian co-ed in director Alex Sichel's segment of the HBO original picture If These Walls Could Talk II. The segment will focus on the lesbian experience on a university campus. Apparently, it's cool to play lesbian in Hollywood, as evidenced by fellow budding talents Natasha Lyonne (American Pie), sexy Nia Long (Soul Food), and Kids cutie Chloe Sevigny joining the sisterhood in the HBO film.

Is a Sex Change in the Offing for McBeal Star?

Clean-cut cutie Gil Bellows (who plays Ally McBonehead's - er, I mean, McBeal's - college flame Billy Thomas on the hit Fox TV series) is looking for racier material. The actor has made a six-figure offer to acquire the film rights to the life story of Einar Wegener, the artist from Denmark who in the 1920s became the first person to undergo sex reassignment surgery, in Copenhagen. The project will be based on The Danish Girl, a novel by David Ebershoff that Random House has slated to be published in February. The deal is far from done - the Ebershoff manuscript has gotten such a hot response in Hollywood that DreamWorks is hoping to snag it for lanky and talented sexpot Angelina Jolie, who has expressed a desire to play the transsexual pioneer's wife, Greta.

Star Wars: Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace

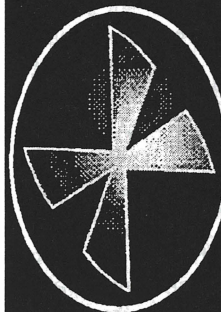
Director George Lucas is the world's biggest flick-tease, waiting 16 years to make another Star Wars movie. Set three decades before the original trilogy, the newest installment tells the story of 10-year-old Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd) before his corruption by the Dark Side and transformation to Darth Vader. Other than a young Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), the characters are mostly new, with sage Jedi warrior Qui-Gon (Liam Nesson), pacifist Queen Amidala (Natalie Portman), and computer-



generated comic relief Jar Jar Binks. Anakin's "Immaculate Conception" is one of many stupendously silly moments, and Lucas's leaden dialogue and New Age spirituality hasn't improved with the years. It is the imaginative visuals that provide the fun (as always) with some impossibly grand sets, phantasmagoric vistas and exciting action sequences. This movie is different from the Star Wars we already know - there are darker political undercurrents.

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The Voice is pleased to introduce our readers to our new Entertainment Feature Writer

Swing Baby Swing

by Rebecca Anstett

Swing music is much more popular today than it has been since its heyday in the late 1930s and 40s. A new generation of swing artists such as Brian Setzer and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy have revived the style of American music first made popular by Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, to name a few.

Circle Theatre Company is a fairly new name in the region, although the company has already established a solid following under its previous name, Theatre Alive. They have been producing live theatrical productions in the Guelph area for over 5 years, including last summer's smash hit "Ladies' Night".

A newly created partnership with the River Run Centre in Guelph and the Sanderson Centre in Brantford has been an important step in achieving the objectives of Circle Theatre Company. Such partnerships allow new works to be developed at lesser costs and provide opportunities to more artists.

After catching the swing fever, Circle Theatre Company launched their new name with the world premiere musical, *Jump, Jive and Swing* with ran June 20 to 24 at the River Run Centre.

Written by Guelph playwright Don Macrae, the original show featured more than 25 popular songs from the age of swing, combined with current tunes from the retro-swing craze.



"Hi all. I'm Rebecca Anstett. I'm fairly active in the local arts scene and have been writing for several local publications on a regular basis. When I'm not running around, being my typically eccentric self, I enjoy reading sci-fi, working on web designs and learning Greek and Latin."

"I believe this will be the first musical to bring together classic swing material up to the present day with songs made popular by many of the new retro-jive and swing bands," explained director Ken Albanese. "The play takes place in the current day and will have

current sensibilities. We'll take a ride down memory lane for some of the material but don't expect the show to be a nostalgia trip; it will be new and very hot."

Jump, Jive and Swing featured nine talented musicians on stage. These included Danny McErlain, himself, Bob DeAngelis, Howard Gaul, Harry Heilig, Turner King, John MacLeod, Shawn Moody, Richard Smyth and Rob Sommerville. "These guys really swing," exclaimed an enthusiastic

Albanese. "They are terrific jazz musicians and will remind everyone about what swing was all about in the first place - jazz. At the same time they will have everyone wanting to get up and dance."

The music supported the humorous and rather touching love story of Jack (Derek Hines, a well-known Waterloo crooner) and Callie (Deano Wilson, a veteran nightclub singer and musical theatre performer). They portrayed star-crossed singers who constantly get under each other's skin and cause the sparks to fly, both onstage and off. Unfortunately, the relationship between Jack and Callie only seemed interesting when the characters were singing. They were a couple who would love to fall in love, alas, they just couldn't seem to get along. Finally, Jack declared his love for Callie and was promptly slapped in the face during Brian Setzer's rousing "This Cat's on a Hot Tin Roof." A team of five dancers - Katherine Caldwell, Steve Cota, Neesa Kenemy, Allison Plamondon and Steven Robertson - provided back up for the incorrigible couple with energetic and playful choreography by Guelph-based dance artist Sarah Jane Burton and her assistant Stephanie Graham.

"This is the first swing musical that combines the two eras of swing from Sinatra to Benny Goodman, right up to the new sounds made popular by Bid Bad Voodoo Daddy and Johnny Favourite. Altogether, we have 27 tunes in the show made famous by Frank Sinatra, Count Basic, Cab Calloway, Peggy Lee, Duke Ellington, Louis Prima, Louis Jordan and others. In addition we

have some recent tunes by Big Time Operator, Brian Setzer, Joe Jackson and the Blues Jumpers," Albanese concluded. "It's a time musical that has appeal for all ages, and it's just a lot of fun for everyone."

RADIO



Woman Made Collective Show
CFRU 93.3 FM Airls Mondays 6-7pm

Women's Spin-- CKMS 100.3 FM
airs Wednesday Nights-6-7:30pm

Nowhere To Hide--CKMS 100.3 FM
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Queer Radio Hamilton--CFMU 93.3 FM
Hamilton Airls Thursdays 5-6pm

Leaping Lesbians-- CKMS 100.3 FM
Airls Thursday Nights-6-8pm

Out & About Queer Radio CKWR
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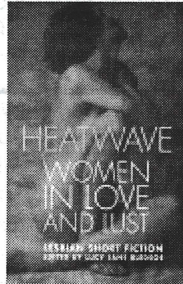
TELEVISION

10% - Qtv broadcasts Sunday's at 11:30 PM-Tune to channel 20 in KW, channel 8 in Guelph, or channel 13 in London

Q Files - Monday's 9-10 pm on CablePulse Ch 24 in K-W.



Heatwave Women in Love and Lust:



Lesbian Short Fiction

by Lucy Jane
Bledsoe (Editor)
Paperback - (Decem-
ber 1995)

Any woman is bound to find SOMETHING here that will amuse, enlighten, or, yes, turn her on. The lead story, Towson University grad Teresa Palomar's hilarious take-off on Thurber's famous "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," is worth the price of the book all by itself.

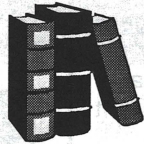
Just As I Am: A Novel



by E. Lynn Harris
Paperback - (March
1995) 367 pages

At the end of Invisible Life, Raymond and Nicole had just ended a blossoming love affair when Nicole found herself unable to cope with Raymond's bisexuality.

Just As I Am begins soon after that, as the two former lovers try to rebuild their lives.



Surface Tension: Love, Sex, and Poli- tics Between Lesbi- ans and Straight Women

by Meg Daly (Editor)
Paperback (January
1996) Touchstone
Books;
ISBN: 068480221X

The voices of Dorothy Allison, Gloria Steinem, Robin Morgan, Susie Bright, Sarah Schulman, Gloria Anzaldua, and other women--lesbian, bisexual, and straight--come together in this illuminating exploration of the relationships among women. National ads/media.

Essays, short stories, and interviews representing a broad diversity of views and voices make up this energizing and enjoyable book that provokes thought, laughter, and tears. Editor Daly sorts the contents

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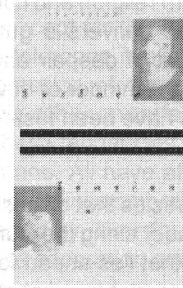
Outstanding Lives, profiles of lesbians and gay
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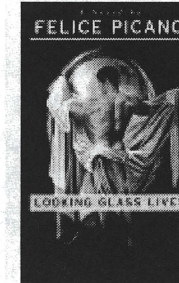
into six categories: "Best Friends," "Romantic Love," "Curiosity, Desire, and Sex," "Passing and Solidarity," "Blurred Boundaries; or, Which One Is the Lesbian?" and "Visibility, Community, and Our Separate Spheres." Outstanding specific pieces include an interview with Robin Morgan and Gloria Steinem on their "friendship beyond sisterhood"; Harriet Brown's account of a growing spiritual sisterhood with a sibling; Carla Trujillo's stunning account of losing a former lover and



longtime friend because of the woman's marriage to a threatened, inflexible man; Susie Bright on the curious allure of straight women (who may turn out to be not so straight, after all); a meditation on conceptual lesbianism by Dorothy Allison that includes wonderfully witty notes on "political" and "spiritual" les-

bianism; a delightful commentary on sharing a bathroom by Louise Rafkin and Barbara Selfridge; and a riveting Grace Paley story on communication between women.

Looking Glass Lives



by Felice Picano
Paperback - (Septem-
ber 1998) 240 pages

Looking Glass Lives is compulsively readable and always surprising. Roger Lynch, his wife, Karen, and his cousin Chas are caught in a dangerous, sexually fraught emotional ménage à trois, but only when Roger begins to unearth the deep, tormented secrets of their small New England town's history does he comprehend the real crux--and horror--of their relationship. Picano understands his characters and is unafraid to explore and expose their most intimate emotional and sexual needs. But he is also

a master of suspense, and as Looking Glass Lives hurtles towards its shocking climax, we are both disturbed and terribly pleased to have been on the trip.

The Lord Won't Mind : A Novel



by Gordon Merrick
Paperback - (Novem-
ber 1995) Alyson
Pubns;
ISBN: 1555832903

This is not "THE GAY NOVEL" or a manifesto of gay living, or a poignant piece on gay relationships. Nope, it's just about sex. The actual story is simple and secondary to the elaborate and well written sex. And that's what you should be paying attention to in this, and the rest of Merrick's books. Sex in more exotic and secretive places.

Merrick's The Lord Won't Mind is well written erotica at its best.

Gay Men at the Millenium

Review by Bryan Gloyd

As we reach the end of the millenium, the gay rights movement seems closer than ever to success. In Canada, we seem no more than a step away from including into our laws the idea of spousal rights for gays and lesbians.

On the one hand, gay people are thriving openly as never before, making marked strides in politics, culture and family life. Yet, each step forward is almost undoubtedly accompanied by a discouraging setback - gay-bashings are still far too common, even in the gay ghetto of Toronto. In the west politicians and parents argue about whether a gay teacher can effectively teach in a public school, or whether books that realistically portray family life with two moms or two dads should be banned from the building. The progress against AIDS is making strides but, a younger generation of gay men who now think that AIDS is curable (or almost curable), is taking a more cavalier attitude to safe sex. And, still - coming out in all but the largest and most progressive cities is a fearful and unpredictable journey. Gay men are still denied access their children, and homophobia runs deep in the heartland.

Within the pages of *Gay Men at the Millenium* you will find a provocative and insightful compilation of writings by a collection of gay

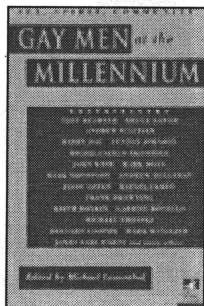
writers on the themes of sex, spirit and community.

This book pulls together authors with differing views on monogamy and the creation of long-term relationships including marriage. Three major sections in the book. Gay men and sex, articles like "Why Gay Men Can't Really Talk About Sex", "Flexible Fidelity". In the Gay Men and Spirit section, authors such as

Harry Hay and Mark Thompson challenge Western religion and culture. Craig Lucas delivers a gut-wrenching account of despair and rage as a searing reminder of how gay men's spirits have been tested by AIDS.

29 authors, 28 articles that discuss and guide the reader along the journey of transition that lies ahead for gay culture. Very readable, most articles are not more than 6-8 pages long - just perfect for late-night reading. *Gay Men at the Millenium* offers a wide cross-section of opinions on what's going on. It's a good read. Edited by Michael Lowenthal, *Gay Men at the Millenium* is published by Tarcher/Putnam in the New Consciousness Reader Series.

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<http://www.outandabout.on.ca>



Oppression Is All Or Nothing

By Lyn McGinnis

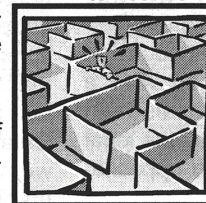
We live in what we like to think is a "liberal" democratic tradition. We enjoy seeing ourselves as free of past ignorance and intolerance. Minorities, sexual or otherwise are aware of several rather large holes in this rosy picture.

To condemn racism or sexism is to cut two heads of the hydra of intolerance, but until we get to its heart, it remains alive with other heads ready to strike fellow human beings. All oppression is connected. Sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, ableism, anti-Semitism, and ageism all have the same root.

Except for the intolerance of intolerance itself, and the oppression of oppression itself, all other manifestations of these tendencies are equally inhumane. All have at their root the inherent insecurity of the group threatened by diversity, and the belief in the separation and valuation of humanity into various categories in order to inhibit and control them. What I have found most disturbing since I came out as a married, transgendered bisexual, is the response of some members of the gay community. I naively assumed I would find complete acceptance and affirmation. To my amazement and disappointment, I found very similar reactions, often more intense, to what I found when I came out to heterosexuals. Why? Some of them felt we "queers among queers" just didn't fit into the universe they had painstakingly con-

structed for themselves. We are a random element challenging the new dogma they had set up in place of the old one they threw out.

For me, it was a completely natural progression from reexamining my homophobic cultural context, to reexamine all my other assumptions about the many variations existing in humanity. To become critical of one oppression while remaining indifferent to others I still find very hard to comprehend. I have come to realize intolerance comes from



ignorance, and ignorance comes from fear. In our ignorance we separate what is actually connected. Insecurity of the group leads to suspicion and fear of any who dissent, even when the group is itself oppressed. Such short-sightedness is dangerous. A hard lesson was learned by one man about not fighting an oppression of others when it appeared not to affect him directly. Martin Niemoller, a survivor of Nazi concentration camps, is famous for saying: "First they came for the Jews. I was silent. I was not a Jew. Then they came for the communists. I was silent. I was not a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists. I was silent. I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

This article is a Voice exclusive.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

These poll results show public opinion now divided on the issue of legal recognition of same-sex marriages, with 49 percent saying homosexual couples who wish to marry should qualify for legal recognition of the marriage, while 47 percent are opposed.

In January of 1993, when the Mulroney Conservative government had proposed amendments to the CHRA, Angus Reid Polling found Canadians opposed to this recognition by a margin of 57 percent to 37 percent, although that question was prefaced with a notation that the proposals then being debated would limit the legal definition of marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Once again, regional support for the legal recognition of same-sex marriages ranges from a high of 58 percent in Quebec to a low of 38 percent in Alberta; Albertans (59%) were joined by other prairie residents (54%) and Ontarians (53%) in expressing majority opposition. And again, support wanes with age. By a two-to-one margin (67% versus 31%), respondents aged 18 to 34 favoured allowing legal recognition of homosexual marriages. Those aged 35 to 54 were split on the issue (49% in favour, 46% opposed), while older Canadians opposed the idea by a more than three-to-one margin (69% to 25%).

GAY AND LESBIAN ADOPTIONS

On the issue of gay and lesbian adoptions, survey respondents were asked, "What do you think about the general issue of homosexual couples - either male or female - who want to adopt kids that are not the biological children of either of the partners in the relationship? In your opinion, assuming they meet the standards and requirements, should homosexual couples be legally allowed to adopt children?" Fifty-two percent of Canadians said such adoptions should not be allowed, compared to 42 percent who said that they should. This question was last asked in May 1995 after an Ontario court decision granted four women the right to adopt their lesbian partners' children: the results were almost exactly the same (54% opposed, 43% in favour).

Again, Quebecers distinguish themselves - indeed, this was the only region registering majority support (55%). In all other major regions, most respondents were opposed (as many as 61% in Alberta). Also consistent with the other findings, most older Canadians (70%) voice opposition to gay and lesbian adoptions, as do a bare majority (51%) of those aged 35 to 54; majority support (54%) is found, however, among 18 to 34-year-old Canadians.

<http://www.angusreid.com/pressrel/gayrights.html>

INVISIBLE WOMEN

Exerpts from a Los Angeles Times Article

Many lesbians avoid doctors for fear of a backlash from judgmental practitioners. With scant research to date, new studies underscore the need to track HIV, cancer and other trends in this population. **By JANE E. ALLEN**

Michelle DuPont sat down in her new primary care doctor's office and was immediately put at ease by medical forms that listed "domestic partner" as a choice for marital status. She filled in the name of her partner of three years, Lisa, and thought to herself how pleasantly progressive the doctor seemed. Michelle DuPont, 39, filed suit against a doctor she says discriminated against her because she is a lesbian.

When Dr. Ronald Axtell asked her if she used birth control, DuPont says she responded, no, "I'm lesbian and therefore pregnancy isn't an issue."

After finishing a pelvic exam, Axtell suggested she make her next appointment with one of two other doctors in his Mission Viejo medical

group. DuPont, 39, assumed he was sending her to a specialist for something he found during the examination. Then, says DuPont, the "bombshell" hit. The doctor told her he didn't approve of her gay "lifestyle."

Still on the examining table, in a flimsy paper gown and feeling vulnerable because she'd revealed her need for antidepressants in the aftermath of childhood sexual abuse, she felt humiliated. Axtell doesn't dispute offering opinions about DuPont's sexuality and referring her elsewhere during that June 1998 visit, says L.A. attorney Jeff Moffat, who represents the doctor in a discrimination lawsuit the American Civil Liberties Union filed on DuPont's behalf.

DuPont's story illuminates a topic that is gaining attention: the health of gay women, long overlooked by medicine. Among the questions researchers are posing is whether lesbian health is suffering because of self-imposed exile from the doctor's office. Like their heterosexual sisters, lesbians fear

sexism in the examining room. But many also approach a medical appointment with the emotional baggage of experiences with

Next page ->

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Invisible Women

Continued from page 45

judgmental, ignorant or homophobic doctors, experts in the field say.

Addressing lesbians' health requires dropping preconceptions. For example, some doctors and lesbians mistakenly assume women not having intercourse with men aren't exposed to viruses responsible for many cervical cancers, although the truth is they can be passed by men and women.

A 43-year-old animator from North Hollywood who asked only to be identified as "Nancy" recalled a visit to an older ob-gyn in Burbank. He told her some medical professionals consider homosexuality to be a form

of mental illness. Her frustrated retort: "These are the things that make teenagers commit suicide when they're confused about their sexuality."

Suzanne Newman, a 34-year-old video producer-director from New York City, recalled telling a new doctor that she was a lesbian. He performed a painful pelvic exam. When she winced, he said: "What's the matter, missy, you can't take it?" Newman then paid out-of-pocket to see her former doctor.

"I've had physicians tell them the problem was they had never had a normal sexual relationship and if they had, they would be cured."

A Comparison of Gay and Straight Women

Invisible Women Continued

Gruskin found younger lesbian and bisexual women drank and smoked more than straight women, but differences disappeared among those older than 50.

"The moral of the story is . . . younger women seem to be at higher risk," she says.

Gay and bisexual women were likelier to report having had or been treated for severe depression; they were marginally more likely to report taking antidepressants.

As attention to lesbian health increases, the ACLU hopes DuPont's case, the first case of sexual discrimination in a doctor's office brought under the California Civil Rights Act, will draw more attention to treatment of gay women. ACLU attorney Taylor Flynn says the case is special because Axtell made specific notes in DuPont's file about her sexuality.

The notes included the following comments: "At the end of the visit, I told the [patient] that I felt uncomfortable treating her because of her lifestyle. I gave her the names of Dr. Tracy and Dr. Reuland to see in my place. The [patient] was very offended that I was prejudiced against her and was upset about that."



I am very clear that a part of my personality is what some people might call a bitch. And I am very comfortable with that. I accept it both as a personality asset and as a personality defect. And I think as I've gotten more mature -- \$500,000 worth of therapy later -- I know when to be a bitch and I know when not to be a bitch. I make a conscious decision about when I'm gonna, you know, open up the bitch tap and let the water run. It can be really effective when I need it to. I've gotten through to people who are far more important than me by being, you know, a real bitch to their staff on the telephone."

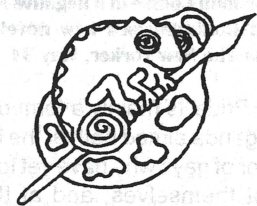
--Lesbian New York City Council member Christine Quinn to the New York Observer, June 14.



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NOTEABLE QUOTES

"I do love dyke marches -- in the bigger cities they're usually scheduled to happen a few days before the bigger, all-inclusive gay parade. They're a frisky and fierce occasion for a bunch of topless women to march down the street, chanting, 'What do we want? Pussy! When do we want it? NOW!'"

-Author Susie Bright writing in Salon Magazine, May 29.

"Quarantined from female rhythms and scruples, the male sex drive functions at fever pitch. ... Perhaps the male homosexual, uncushioned as he is by society's circumambient encouragements to breed, feels the isolated, disquieted human condition with a special bleakness: he must take it straight."

-Author John Updike in a negative review of Alan Hollinghurst's new novel, The Spell, in The New Yorker, May 31.

"'Gay Pride' is mainly a form of PR propaganda aimed both at the large number of gays who have yet to fully accept themselves, and at those heterosexuals who still find themselves able to feel a smug, disdainful superiority to gays."

-Syndicated gay columnist Paul Varnell in an early June filing.

"Straight people are -- I think they're in trouble, quite frankly. I don't think it's going well for them. When they took out those ads for the ex-gays - remember that, sponsored by Focus On The Family? -- you know, I saw those and I thought, God, it can't be going well for straight people; they have to advertise now."

--Comedian Kate Clinton on the all-lesbian episode of Roseanne, May 27.

"I just find it so much easier not to have one [a boyfriend]. I'm a bit too demented to maintain a relationship. I've been single for a few years now. A good few years. The minute I get insecure about a relationship, a little demon in me sets out to destroy it. I seem to go down that road every time."

-Gay pop singer Jimmy Somerville to London's Pink Paper, May 28.

"I go out on the scene a lot, but there are so many other ways to meet nowadays. Chatlines, they're hilarious, and a great way of getting knobbed. My biggest treat is when someone I've chatted to on the phone lines turns up and doesn't suss who I am. 'You look familiar,' and I go, 'Ah, maybe you've just seen me somewhere.' Once, one guy came to the door and said: 'I can't shag you -- you're too famous.' Another time, somebody must have recognised my voice because he started playing Smalltown Boy down the phone. But I won't be able to go on the chatline now. I've just blown it."

-Gay pop singer Jimmy Somerville to London's Pink Paper, May 28.

"The whole idea of having a child has made me much more of an activist, more concerned about the world. I mean, I used to be concerned, but it was sort of finite. Now I want the world to be better - perfect -- because my children are going to be here after me. Things mean more. Things matter."

--Rocker Melissa Etheridge to the Advocate, June 22.

Canadian Opposition to Our Rights and Progress

[Editor's Note: The U.S. has its Religious Right and its infamous ministers who speak out against us. Here in Canada we have the Canada Family Action Coalition.]

ABOUT C.F.A.C.

"Canada Family Action Coalition (CFAC) was founded in 1997 by Roy Beyer, Brian Rushfeldt, Joe Woodard and Marcel Mah. In two years, CFAC has established 18 chapters and affiliates in several provinces, built a membership of over 5500, and launched several successful action campaigns that have made a tangible difference in public policy. Our goal is to mobilize grassroots Canadians to influence their government Roy Beyer, Founding President As an ordained minister and activist, Roy brings 17 years experience as a pastor and activist to CFAC. He has insight on overcoming the obstacles that hinder people of faith from getting involved. An excellent visionary and strategist, Roy has the ability to mobilize people to action. Roy's E-mail address is: president@familyaction.org

Our Mission

To mobilize, train and activate Canadians in defending and promoting Judeo-Christian principles in Canadian society.

Primary Principles

[They] believe the Judeo-Christian moral tradition is foundational to

Canadian society. We believe that all Canadians have the right to express and practice publicly their religious beliefs, and that Government has a duty to respect and safeguard those rights. We believe that the family, based on the marriage of a husband and wife of the opposite sex, is central to the fabric of society. We believe in policies which protect the inherent right and responsibility of parents in the raising and education of their children. We believe in the inherent dignity of human life, from conception to natural death. We believe in the mutual responsibility of all citizens to be active in community life and participate in the political process."

"Canada Family Action Coalition believes that any legislative or court decisions must support, protect and enhance the traditional, natural family and married opposite sex spouses for the benefit of children, families and Canadian society. CFAC supports overturning M vs. H on the basis that it overrides the democratic tradition inherent in Canada's law and culture. We believe that nine unelected judges should not be dictating the laws and social policies of Ontario.

"We are therefore conducting an information and political action campaign to vigorously defend family and spouse as it has always been defined in Canadian law. We encourage the Ontario government exercise its constitutional right to invoke the Section 33 'Notwithstanding Clause' to opt out of this court decision."

Author: Brian Rushfeldt, Executive Director, Canada Family Action Coalition"

<http://www.familyaction.org/>

VOICE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

By Lyn McGinnis

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, during our fifth annual Pride Day celebrations in Victoria Park, The Voice Magazine had a questionnaire at its information table. We asked visitors to our table to take a moment to fill it out so we could get a better sense of how we are serving your community. I have simply quoted the comments made as opposed to trying to analyze percentages. The original questions all appear in capitals. We hope at future events you will consider responding to this survey, so we can better know how to meet the needs of everyone in our community.

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR GENDER

For every seven males that responded there were 10 responses from females.

HAVE YOU READ THE VOICE

- A) REGULARLY
- B) OCCASIONALLY
- C) NOT SEEN IT BEFORE
- D) NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE

Of those, a majority read The Voice regularly, followed by four who read it occasionally and one who hadn't seen it before.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE MAGAZINE?

"Everything - politics, ads, book/film reviews."

"Well written, historical perspectives. It creates awareness of supportive organizations. Informative re upcoming events.

GIVES US EXPOSURE AND A VOICE!

- "It's local."
- "Very informative articles. Excellent advertising about people supporting the gay community."
- "Local issues/events."
- "The articles."
- "Local information and articles/current affairs."
- "Events and articles."
- "Great and interesting local content and events."
- "Keeping up-to-date on local events."
- "Very informative - news - good ads - local."
- "The informative articles on various subjects."
- "Full format. Articles, news and others. Ads."
- "Haven't read it yet, but has bright, attractive format."
- "News about gay community."
- "Analysis and feminist content. Progressive."

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE MAGAZINE?

We had far fewer responses to this question and some respondents used the space to further compliment us!

- "It would be welcome to hear from other persons within our community although to refute it is sometimes difficult to pump people to find a voice.

- "Well. that it's local. Doing perfect."
- "No complaints"
- "Size is just right for leisure reading."

- "Too much editorializing in the guise of articles."

- "Nothing."

- "It's all good!"

- "I found the coverage of the Matthew Sheppard story a little sensationalist - lack of respect."

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE COULD IMPROVE THE MAGAZINE?

- "Put cooking tips, tips of where to meet people."

- "More information on Transexuality."

- "Ongoing balance of female and male topics."

- "More of same and photos."

- "Keep the same format as long as possible."

- "More diversity."

- "None I can think of."

- "More boys! Just joking,..."

- "Distribute in Brantford."

DO YOU LIKE THE CURRENT DIMENSIONS OF THE MAGAZINE?

Everyone answered yes to this question!

WHY OR WHY NOT?

- "Well it's local and that was needed. -It seemed like everything was centred around Toronto."

"Could be full size."

- "Prefer small size."

- "It's not too big or too small."

- "Easy to read - not floppy like XTRA (not to compare it to that)."

- "Can take it and read anywhere."

- "Easy to carry around."

- "It is easier to be discreet with."

- "It's like a gay "readers digest."

WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO REMAIN THE SIZE THAT IT IS?

97% said yes, 1% said no and 2% didn't say either.

WHAT DOES THE VOICE MAGAZINE MEAN TO YOU? WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT?

- "It affirms my gay culture in this region."

- "Presents positive re-enforcement."

- "Cause it lets people know what's going on and I can relate to people of my sexuality."

- "Excellent means of advertising in the gay community. Keep up the excellent work!!"

- "Again, because it's local! Very good!"

- "An outlet for discussion."

- "Very important voice for the gay community in a smaller town."

- "Connections to the community."

"The name says it all and hopefully the community will use it."

- "Important to keep in touch with community."

- "Great reading material for all."

"It is a 'voice for our community'

- "Local community news/opinion is the only way to build a powerful social movement!"

Thank you to those who took the time to give us your feedback. We very much appreciate your honesty.

If you didn't see our questions on Pride Day and you'd like to share your opinions with us now please write to us at the addresses listed on page 2.

FEELINGS: THE RIVER FROM HEART AND SOUL

By A.J. Mahari

Feelings reeling rolling righteously from heart to mind in a desolately desperate search for any and all answers that they might find.

The preciously pattered upon path between one's soul and one's heart, like a river flowing furiously is forever foraging to be free. Water whipping one way and then the other attaching to everything yet connecting to nothing. Waves welcoming tears with the promise of washing away the hurt that has accumulated over the many years.

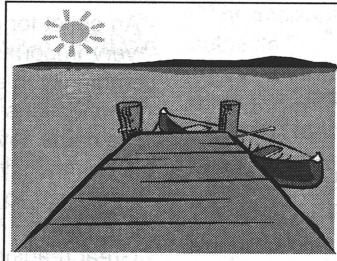
This river of heart and of soul thrives on its defined journey. A journey that continues to unfold within the e m b e d d e d embodiment of its own entity. Flowing,

flowing, like tears bursting forth, bursting free as it crashes and splashes up against its own edges.

As a river splashes over its banks so too do tears flow forth from the eye of the one who has beheld the pain. Pain, much to one's disdain; purges and allows the soul to rain. Tears, like rain ripple into puddles that are lessons accumulated, lessons simulated, emulated, emancipated, alienated, conjugated and finally understood. Puddles are obstacles that mirror our travel as we navigate our way through them or around them.

There is a wiggling reflection of me in each puddle I see. Water splashed about in the due course of life; each movement: water's destiny.

A river runs through my soul from my heart to my mind. A river rich in tradition and rich in history lives inside of me. When I rain on the inside so many feelings I am often trying to hide. When I rain from within freeing myself from the trappings of my thoughts is what you are seeing.



I am a river. Life is a river. I am my life; my life is me. Is it water flowing down that stream or is it me? Is this real or is this a dream?

There is a place where feelings of the heart and the yearnings of a soul will always meet up, yet again, with one's thoughts? A fork in the river is afoot. What was once one body of water flowing is now two as it hits this fork of knowing.

Two paths, one river: many tears; of life, only one giver. The river is the liver. The liver is the giver. The rhyme is the reason and the reason is the rhyme. The giver will take the liver will die -- but on will flow the river: throughout all of measured time. Feelings reeling rolling righteously as I paddle the river that is what I feel in this life.

THE "FLY GUYS"

By Timothy Lee

"Brown cows with 2 rocks each?" confirmed Mark. My friend Dave introduced me to Mark & Rob, one of Toronto's many young gay couples making a life for themselves in the downtown area. I checked out their Queen's Quay apartment, casually gazing at the various framed photos of Mark & Rob at a beach, on a hiking trail, and in the portrait studio.

"You guys make cheap dates," Mark chuckled as he handed the two of us our drinks and fixed a straight shot of Amaretto for himself. The Ontario Place fireworks viewed from their apartment rooftop would begin the evening, then we would head off to Fly, one of the newer clubs in the gay scene.

While in the little boys' room, I nearly knocked down a massive collection of cologne bottles like dominoes. CK, Polo, and every other imaginable magic potion lined the sink. Next to the sink stood the toilet that dubbed as the Clinique-counter of skin products. It was my turn to laugh. How stereotypically gay! Will all gay males eventually succumb to such vanity habits in the life-long battle against AGE?

I have no shortage of quirky friends. One of them, Jason, refuses to smile more than necessary for fear of getting "age wrinkles." Jason, being a rather avid bar hopper, gave me a quick prep before I headed out, "Oh Tim, you've got to check out Fly! I always go after midnight, but it's not until 2:00 a.m. that they crank up the music. That's when it gets really

hot. All the guys get sweaty. So much so they rip their t-shirts off. I do too. It's such an incredible rush!"

So, with testimonial like that, how could I not see for myself?

That night, I checked it all out and it's true. The "Fly guys" really do shed their tops, although it would probably be more accurate to say that the boys don't just get sweaty; they get SLICK!

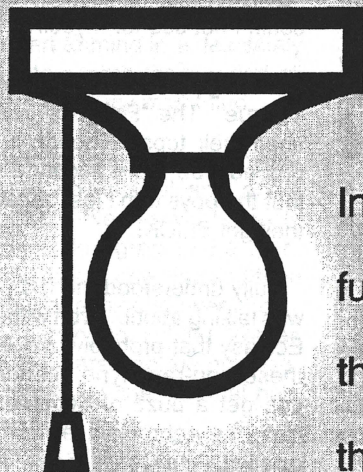
I fully understood the rush Jason was talking about. Even without the Ecstasy that probably circulates in these non-rave-type scenes, one can get a buzz of hypersexuality from the aphrodisiacal mixture of gaseous testosterone, sweat, smoke and music.

In amongst this scene, the ageism was subtle but ever present. The younger guys stick together. The older guys stick together. Some older guys come alone. The younger guys take the spotlight of the dance floor. The older guys dance off to the side. The older guys watch the younger guys. The younger guys look at each other. It doesn't take a genius to figure out which directions the hormones are flowing.

It's funny watching Jason get giddy from all the attention in the bar--truly like a schoolgirl amongst her admirers. To him, it all comes down to the numbers: the number of cute guys on the dance floor, the number of guys who checked him out, and the telephone numbers he has collected. To me, it's just amusing

Continued on page 54

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THE OUTCAST

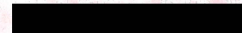
Continued from page 53

to watch a like-aged friend "Peter Pan" into a kid with candy. Why does this seem to be less of an occurrence in the straight world? Are straight people more comfortable about their age and looks?

Quite simply, gay men forever worship the temple of youth and virility because they want to experience what they have missed in their teenage years before their coming out.

The Outcast is a Voice exclusive.

Timothy Lee is a local university student originally from Toronto. Comments and feedback can be sent to him at The Voice or by e-mail at:



Sparerib Rub

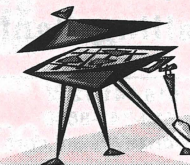
1 tablespoon granulated garlic
1 tablespoon onion powder
2 tablespoons salt
1 tablespoon black pepper
1 tablespoon white pepper
1/2 cup paprika
1 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon cayenne pepper

This may be a little hot or some folks, so one may want to reduce the cayenne a little, but that's the way they like'em out West. I believe the brown sugar is a must, and when it caramelizes, it produces that rich dark cherry-red color, plus it tastes good!

Hi Chris I wanted to ask you what a dry rub is? -- Elaine

Hi Elaine,

A dry rub is all dry ingredients. And it gets rubbed into the meat. Then it gets refrigerated for a hour or before it is put on the grill.



The Voice Classifieds Page

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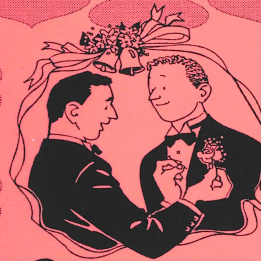
Single lesbian interested in meeting women for friendship and possibly dating (between 30-55). I hope one day to meet that someone special. I like to take things slowly. My interests include: watching sports, music, movies, good conversation, sharing quiet, relaxed times and relating. If you'd like to talk, please drop me a line. Ad# L-4.

Not under 40, not fit, but, hey, FUN!
Single, lesbian interested in meeting other single lesbians for friendship, and possibly dating, between 30-45. I like the quiet life, good conversations and I love to laugh.
Reply to ad # L-5.

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Available September 1 Two rooms for rent in a gay-positive house. Near Frederick Street Mall and on a bus route. Main floor and basement. \$325.00 inclusive. Call [REDACTED]

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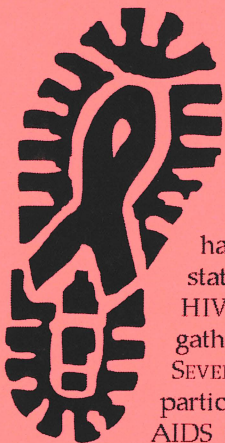
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AIDS WALK CANADA 99

On Sunday, September 26, 1999, you will once again have the opportunity to make a powerful and lasting statement about your commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. On that day, more than 500 people will gather in Victoria Park, Kitchener for Waterloo Region's SEVENTH ANNUAL AIDS WALK CANADA 99. We invite you to participate in this 10-k fundraising walk benefiting the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA) by forming a walk team of students, teachers, family and/or friends. We are part of AIDS WALK CANADA 99, a national fundraising initiative in support of AIDS service organizations across the country!

Funds are urgently needed for AIDS prevention, education and support services in our community. All proceeds from AIDS WALK CANADA 99 will directly benefit ACCKWA to provide much needed services to men, women and children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS here in Waterloo Region. Your pledges will help ensure that ACCKWA can continue to deliver front-line AIDS prevention and education programs.

On **Tuesday, Aug. 17, 1999** you are invited to a **Pre-Walk Registration Launch and BBQ, Victoria Park, Kitchener starting at 2:00 p.m.** This is to facilitate the registration and pledge forms processing for Walk Day on **Sept. 26**, as well as to socialize with a BBQ, music and entertainment.

\$50,000 GOLF TOURNAMENT

On **Friday, September 17, 1999**, ACCKWA will have its **FIRST ANNUAL AIDS WALK CANADA 99 GOLF TOURNAMENT** at **Beaverdale Golf Club** with a chance for a **\$50,000 Hole-In-One prize**. Complimentary power carts, snacks after 9 holes, N.Y. Steak dinner after 18 holes, free golf ball and bag of tees. Tickets are \$90 with a \$50 charitable tax receipt. There is a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Play your own game format and singles, pairs and 4-somes welcome.

Contact any staff of A CCKWA for more information.



THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF CAMBRIDGE,
KITCHENER-WATERLOO AND AREA

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